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January 9, 1972

William H. Sheldon, M.D.
790 Riverside Drive
New York, New York 10032

Dear Dr. Sheldon;

By separate cover I am sending you a copy of my book, "American Half Cents - the Little Half Sisters". I am doing this for a number of reasons. First is that I consider you to be my mentor when it comes to coin collecting. I acquired a copy of Early American Cents in October 1949 and I have yet to see its equal. Secondly, I would appreciate your comments on the book. You as a collector of U. S. copper are well aware of the relationship between the Cent and Half Cent. Your comments would not be published or circulated without your express consent. Thirdly, I would like you to study my format, printing, and enlarged photography, and suggest you consider it for "More Cent Nonsense" or whatever you title your third revision.

In regard to my last reason, I am sure that you have had many ideas suggested to you. I would be most willing to supply you with any information that you may desire as to what steps I went through to publish my book. As you may realize, I have carried my book from idea, through research, writing, editing, proofreading, pasteups, publishing and distribution.

It was a real pleasure to meet you and Mrs. Paschal at the EAC meeting on December 30 and I look forward to seeing you again.

Very truly yours,

Sheldon
Sunday, Apr. 23rd

Dear Mr. Cohen:

It may be hard for you to understand the following acknowledgment; so first I want to tell you that I wrote my first letter to Dr. Sheldon over 20 years ago and have never received in all these years a letter from him. Dorothy Paschal answered that first one and I have been corresponding with her ever since.

Last Friday week I flew to NY and spent all day Saturday with Dr. Sheldon. He must have seen your book in my brief case, as he went back in his office, brought your letter out and asked me if I would mind thanking you for sending him the American Half Cents. He knew I was going to write you anyway (see below). It was a most delightful event for me and I learned more about grading Large Cents that day than I have accumulated in knowledge in the last 25 years. When one has never seen the hair details on an Unc. 1793 cent, he cannot be expected to grade an EF or AU 1793 until he does see the UNC. I looked at cents that made my eyes pop out and for the first time realized what the phrase meant. Dr. Sheldon works all the time and uses what little leisure he has to fool with the LCs. He is leaving for the State of Oregon shortly and without the finishing of the long awaited approval for publication of the new issue of FW. It will not go to press before Fall (if then), and this proves how busy he really is. Mrs. Paschal has been to Boston three times trying to locate a place to live there, if she can ever get him to move, or rather to take time off to pack to move.

In our discussions your name came up in regard to publication. I wonder if you will help me with information since you have just had the experience. I flew on down to Cape Cod to talk with Eugene Exman who was in charge of publication of FW in 1958. The whole trouble is that Dr. Sheldon wants the new edition sold at an impossible retail. He abhors inflation and says it is going to ruin the whole country. He has an estimate of 4000 copies @ \$5.40 each from Whitman (I think) and a recommended retail of a very minimum of \$18.50, while he had in mind something like \$12.00. I want to see the new issue published enough to try to do something about it, even if I have to agree to distribute it for nothing but expenses, but I would like to make something like 50¢ an hour on the effort. He is not going to take a dime for all his work. Wright and Loring have turned up such a flurry of new information that the basal values as well as the Condition Census is still up in the air.

It is my understanding you did all the work yourself on your book. Did you actually do the printing? Maybe you could tell me where to look to find out if it will be possible to have FW printed and distributed for a price of no more than \$15. One thing which is expensive and which are available, the plates from FW, but about 6 or 8 new photos have to be inserted somewhere, preferably on the pages where the varieties fit in, which of course could change that many pages of plates.

As you so told me I know this is your busiest time, but Dr. Sheldon thanks you and appreciates your sending the book, and I would surely appreciate any information you can give me, as soon as your rush business is over.

Raymond Chatham
Raymond Chatham, partially for Dr. W.H. Sheldon

April 22, 1972

Raymond Chatham
Lawson, Mo. 64062

Gentlemen, please remember that the earliest Post Mark, in your town, gets the coin
A second and third choice might win out over a later PM.

1795	S-76b, from the Sheldon collection, MS65, CC	\$400
1797	S-126, Proskey-Hines and Sheldon, MS60, 1 of 2 finest known	\$525
1797	S-130, " " " " MS60, 2nd finest	\$425
1798	S-157, Wurtzbach, Dr. French, MS65, unexcelled, tied for 1st finest	\$500
1798	S-158, Perfect obv. die on a prooflike planchet, AU and tied for 1st	\$425
1798	S-166, Gaskill to Sheldon, MS65, 2nd finest known	\$425
1798	S-167, Earnest Henderson collection, MS65 " " "	\$450
1798	S-186, Die brks prove this cent minted AFTER S-188 " " "	\$600
	Only two Uncs known	
1798	S-150, The rare overdate, EF45 " " "	\$675
1798	S-153, Hines to Sheldon, AU50 " " "	\$375
1798	S-172, From the Sheldon collection AU55, 2nd or 3rd finest	\$325
	Did you ever see anything like the above in the last few years?	
	For the RARE hounds	
1798	S-149, From D. Smith, VG8 and Condition Census	\$150
1795	S-77, Macallister and Gaskill, EF40 and CC	\$300
1796	S-99, From the Sheldon collection, F15 and 3rd in CC	\$525
1796	S-105, Chatham collection, aha! and Condition Census, VG10 (pretty)	\$150
1796	S-108, Brown collection, VF	\$165
1796	S-109, " " , VF30, 4th or 5th in CC	\$325
1800	S-193, A very nice VG-8	\$ 45
1801	S-215, Graded by Dr. Sheldon as 7th or 8th VF20	\$185
1801	S-216, AU55 and Condition Census	\$200
1801	S-220, F-VF, 1/000 very sharp	\$ 75
	Anybody need a filler (I need a refill)	
1794	S-46, VG obverse Fair reverse	\$ 37.50
1794	S-31, Fine	\$ 67.50
	For Dessert and in my opinion the best of all in any condition, I never got a chance to buy one from 1950 to 1959 and not a whole lot of collectors have ever owned one: 1794, S-34, about VG	\$200
	I hope nobody wants it badly	

The best of luck to those who were disappointed last list.

*Dr. Sheldon has asked me to
write you a letter - and I
am going to do so Monday
or just as soon as I get
through with this chore -*